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THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET
CHRONICLE

Week of October 1, 2012 Vol. 32, Issue 7

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State mandates reallocate remedial courses

Andrea Drac
Staff Writer

After the spring 2013 semester, students will no longer be able to take remedial courses at PUC as a result of mandates changed by the state of Indiana.

"The Indiana Commission on Higher Education mandated that Indiana's state [universities] not offer remedial courses," Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Ralph Rogers said.

Rogers said most of PUC's remedial courses are high school level math and writing courses, though sometimes courses are at set at the elementary or middle school levels. Additionally, remedial courses, which are identified as zero level courses, do not carry credits toward graduation. Students who need to take remedial courses must take them at Ivy Tech and then transfer them to PUC.

"The state of Indiana decided in the early 2000s to structure public higher education to include a two-year community college system. To accomplish this, they chose to change the mandate for Ivy Tech Community College to include offering associate degrees which would articulate to the state's four-year public universities," Catherine Murphy, department head of math, computer science and statistics, said.

"To maintain broad access to higher education in the state, the change included the requirement that by 2014 all remedial education would be offered through Ivy Tech Community College," Murphy said.

In addition to the traditional lecture, remedial classes have other components such as online, lab and group work, depending on what is most effective for the class.

Rogers said in the past, PUC worked with Ivy Tech to offer some of Ivy Tech's remedial classes on the PUC campus.

"[Students] used to qualify to get in these courses by the courses they took or didn't take in high school, through ACT/SAT test scores and placement testing when they were admitted," Rogers said.

Murphy said most of the math and English remedial courses have already transferred from PUC to Ivy Tech. She said the last course, Beginning Algebra, will be transferred to Ivy Tech in May 2013.

"Ivy Tech has worked closely with the state's four-year universities to ensure that students who earn an associate degree at Ivy Tech are prepared to be successful when they attend a public four-year university to earn a bachelor's degree," Murphy said. "I believe the state's current structure for higher education benefits the citizens of Indiana in providing opportunities for access to and successful completion of a college degree."

RAINN or shine

Students, faculty, staff gather to raise awareness of sexual violence

Photo: PUC Counseling Center

Many people participate in RAINN Day to stop sexual violence on Sept. 26.

Jessi VanKley
Chronicle Correspondent

On Sept. 27 at 11 a.m., a couple dozen students, faculty and staff members convened in Founder's Plaza for Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network Day.

In efforts to raise awareness of sexual violence on college campuses across the country, the group marched around campus, weaving through the Student Union & Library and Gyte buildings, with umbrellas covered in paper hand cut-outs and signs with phrases reading, "I did not deserve it", "Real men take no for an answer" and simply "No."

Freshman Papa Otoo did not know of the march until his soccer coach urged him and his teammates to attend and support the effort.

"It's for a good cause, so I am all for it," Otoo said.

The march was sponsored by the Counseling Center, Student Health Services, the Office of Equity and Diversity, Housing and Residential Education, the Dean of Students, the Purdue University Police Department and International Honor Society in Psychology Psi Chi.

Senior Annie DeRolf, vice president of Psi Chi, explained why Psi Chi was involved.

"Psi Chi was asked by the Counseling Center to help raise awareness for sexual violence on campus and we thought that was a really great thing to help out with," DeRolf said.

Psi Chi President Mandi Kozlowski was at the head of the march, encouraging individuals to join the marchers. Kozlowski said she felt the purpose of RAINN Day was significant.

"Raising awareness for sexual abuse on college campuses is very important. It provides a safe environment for everybody to get a college education, and it's not only for college campuses, it's for across the country," Kozlowski said.

At the end of the march, everyone re-gathered in Founder's Plaza to conclude RAINN Day activities. As one of the few speakers at the event, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Sarah Howard briefly spoke of the importance of raising awareness of sexual violence and expressed her hope that next year's RAINN Day turnout will fill Founder's Plaza.

Photo: PUC Counseling Center

Handprints of supporters show the need to stop sexual violence on RAINN Day on Sept. 26.

Tastes of the Region presents Asian cuisine

Micaela Martinez
Chronicle Correspondent

At times, living and eating in Northwest Indiana can be monotonous. Local restaurants featuring international cuisines offer a respite from ordinary meals. In particular, Northwest Indiana is home to a plethora of restaurants that satisfy an Asian-food craving or the need to try something new.

Photo: Micaela Martinez

Exotic Thai on Indianapolis Boulevard in Highland

Exotic Thai

This Highland restaurant was founded in 2005 and has been serving delicious Thai food ever since. They have their busiest and best days on the weekends when people come to dine in. Employee, Alex Jiang, who has worked at Exotic Thai for two years, said the top-selling items are the pad thai noodles at $8.95 and the spicy basil fried rice at $7.95. Customers also favor the thai iced tea, which is a sweet-tasting tea made with black tea, orange blossom water, star anise fruit, sugar and condensed milk.

Exotic Thai is one of the only Thai restaurants in the region and, as stated on their menu, their food is, "A marriage of centuries-old Eastern and Western influences, harmoniously combined into something uniquely Thai."

Exotic Thai
9628 Indianapolis Blvd.,
Highland
(219) 924-7737

Fortune House

Since opening in 2005, Fortune House has become a popular Chinese eatery in the Region, delivering approximately 100 carry-out orders each day. Friday nights attract the most dine-in customers.

"People love our chicken dishes. The most popular are the sweet and sour chicken, orange chicken, and General Tso's chicken," Dan Lou said. Lou added that many international students from PUC eat at Fortune House.

Fortune House
8250 Calumet Ave., Munster
(219) 836-1690

Dragon Bowl

Having been open for almost five years, the Dragon Bowl restaurant in Munster has been quite popular with region residents. Dragon Bowl takes pride in having the freshest and healthiest ingredients available to prepare their Chinese, Japanese and Thai fare. Behind the register hangs a certificate proclaiming that the restaurant's food is free of MSG.

See Region page 4

ADMINISTRATIVE update

Need Help?
The Campus Counseling Center is here for you!

Have you been...

- Falling asleep in class?
- Unable to go to bed at a reasonable time due to mismanagement of time and resources?
- Getting less than 7-8 hours of sleep a night?
- Seeing a significant decrease in your grades on homework, quizzes, and/or tests?
- Considering dropping out of school or dropping a class(es)?
- Eating or sleeping more or less than usual?
- Experiencing anxiety that is impeding your ability to perform well in class?
- Using substances, such as drugs, alcohol and/or caffeine, as a way to deal with the stress you are experiencing?
- Afraid to ask for help from a classmate, professor or the Tutoring Center?
- Feeling like "there is no way out", or "I'm in over my head?"

Did you answer **YES** to any of the above questions? If so, the Purdue Calumet Counseling Center is here to help you!

Free & confidential services

The Counseling Center offers **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** personal and career counseling to all enrolled students. With four, full-time licensed staff members and three doctoral graduate interns/externs under their supervision, *the Counseling Center staff has a plethora of experience in working* with students who have a variety of concerns.

Additionally, if a student needs psychotropic medications, there is a consulting psychologist on-staff who is able to recommend medications in coordination with the Student Health Services Center and/or a student's general practitioner. It should be noted that students must be actively engaged in counseling in order to receive psychotropic medication recommendations.

Students come to the Counseling Center for a variety of reasons that include, but are not limited to: test anxiety, time management, procrastination, relationship concerns, domestic violence, abuse/trauma, coming out/sexual orientation, family concerns, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, suicide, eating disorders, and difficulty concentrating.

Career counselors, too

The counselors at the Counseling Center are also career counselors. If a student is questioning his/her major or experiencing any career related difficulties, Counseling Center staff can provide a wide range of services. These services include career counseling, assessment, and résumé and cover letter review and critique. The Counseling Center is located in Gyte 5. Other contact information. . .

Call **219-989-2366** or visit **purduecal.edu/counseling** for more info.

@puc_counseling

facebook.com/ Purdue-University-Calumet-Counseling-Center

What's Going On?
A look around PUC...

Writing Center presents an interactive research workshop

The Writing Center will present an interactive workshop to help with Finding and Evaluating Academic Research. The workshop will address the use of PULSE (the library's electronic catalog), EbscoHOST-based research databases, and evaluating online news sources and websites. PUC students, staff, faculty and community members may attend on Tuesday, Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. in the Writing Center computer lab – CLO 263. Each free session will last approximately 85 minutes. For more information, or to RSVP, call the Writing Center at (219)989-2200. Space is limited, so those interested are encouraged to make reservations early.

Purdue Theatre Co. presents the world premiere of "The Perfect Garden"

The Purdue Theatre Co. is producing "The Perfect Garden," a comedy, written by PUC faculty member, Dr. Theresa Carilli. This will be the world premiere of the play. This is not the first time the Purdue Theatre Co. has produced one of her plays. In 2008 the group mounted "Cat Hoarders Anonymous," a one-act play that was recently produced off-Broadway in New York City.

Performances for "The Perfect Garden" *will take place on Nov 9, 10, 11, 17 and 18.* Friday and Saturday performances will be at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm. All performances will take place in YJean Chambers Hall, SULB 353. Tickets will cost $10. Reservations can be made by calling (219)989-2357.

We look forward to letting the campus community and all of the South Shore creative community experience Dr. Carilli's humor, intelligence and compassion in this play that tells the story of "same sex domestic partners" tending their home and beautiful garden. Socially relevant and lovingly told, this is a play for mature audiences although children over the age of 12 will be admitted if accompanied by a parent or guardian. For questions, contact Corya Kennedy Channing, director of the Purdue Theatre Co. at (219)989-2267 or channing@purduecal.edu

Row for 60 challenge

Begin on or after Oct. 8 and complete 60,000 meters or more to commemorate 60 years of Intramural Sports at PUC. This is open to all PUC students, faculty and staff whether members of the Fitness Center or not.
Each 10,000 meters you row, you will receive a ticket to be eligible to win a Fit Bit Activity Tracker.
Complete all 60,000 meters and receive a water bottle.

Challenge ends December 5, 2012. Come to the Fitness Center on or after October 8 and sign up.
For more information, call (219)989-2175.

"I Spy with My Little Eye"

In Celebration of National Archive Month, The PUC Archive and Special Collects (located inside the library on the 2nd floor of SUL) has put together a visual exhibit titled "I Spy with My Little Eye". This exhibit, housed in the two display cases in front of the archive, requires each viewer to find 12 specific PUC archive items amongst a backdrop of many more PUC archive items. Finding all 12 items will win you a treat. The exhibit will be up until Halloween. Please stop by if you have a few moments and test your skills.

Anyone interested in publicizing events, organizations, clubs or departments in "What's Going On?" must submit briefs the Monday before publication. The Chronicle does not guarantee placement of briefs submitted.

Please limit submissions to four sentences and include the first and last name of the contact person.

Briefs may be submitted via e-mail at puechronicle@gmail.com or campus cc:mail - Chronicle or to the newsroom located in the Student Union and Library building, room 344H.

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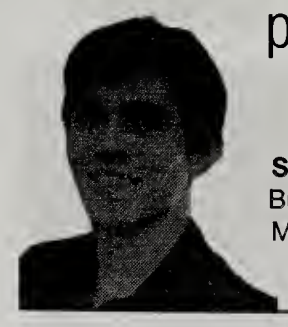
A change of plans



Dante Vidal Silguero
Business Manager

In life, as in chess, one must have a plan of sorts. An old chess proverb states, "A bad plan is better than no plan," and in both the aspects of life and of chess I'd have to agree with the proverb. I've never had a solid plan for my life. In my short 23 years on Earth I've found that having long-term goals is a smart idea, but I've also learned that you need to leave those long term goals flexible. What I mean by this is that one must have a destination planned, but one does not have to have the path planned.

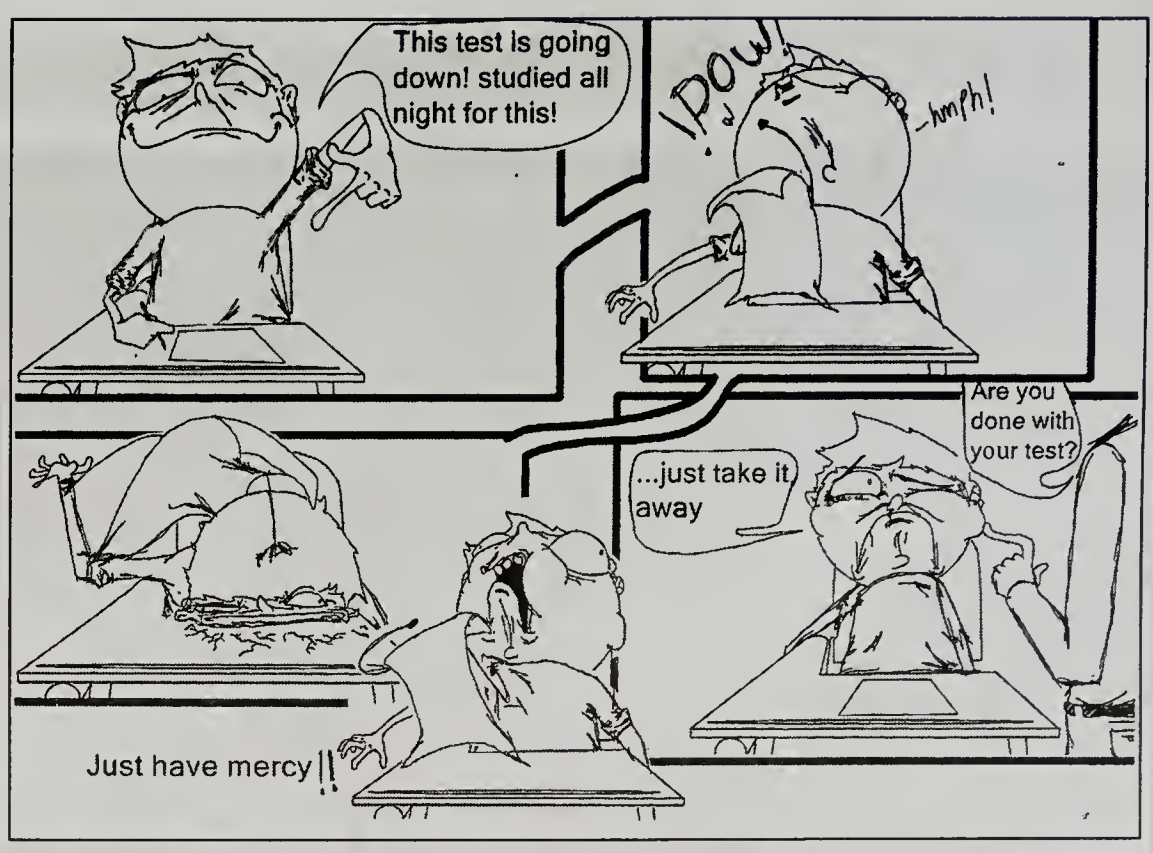
Planning a path is folly. Out of high school, my planned path to my destination was going to pastry school, getting a decent job in the pastry field and living in Chicago. Unfortunately, the pastry path didn't work out quite as I would have liked, so I decided to go to a traditional college. I altered my planned path to fit in with going to a university in Alabama, then to apply for a scholarship to Loyola University in Chicago, then to attend the University of Chicago, but for one reason or another none of these paths worked out. I had become quite frustrated that I was nearly 22 years old, and I felt as if I hadn't accomplished anything with my life. Then I realized it isn't the exact path I should be planning, but a general plan to follow to achieve my goal.

Life happens. Plans have to change.

It took me nearly three years to find a university to call home, that home being PUC, and in those three years I've done a lot of everything. Despite having jumped around from being a pastry cook, to a volunteer, to a student at X, Y and Z universities, to finally being a solid, dedicated student here at PUC, I never lost sight of my goal. I learned to allow my plans to be flexible to account for anything that I might encounter on my way to my goal.

The same idea should be applied by any one of you reading this column. Don't become discouraged because you're not where you thought you would be. The truth is that very few people are exactly where they planned to be a few years ago. Life happens, and when life happens plans have to change. Enjoy what you have now, come up with ideas instead of strict plans to help you achieve your goals and take everything one step at a time. Those steps might be down the path you've foreseen, or they may lead you astray into a dark forest, but such things are not to be feared or disliked. It's the adventures we encounter while walking away from our path that lead us to what we really want.

Readers can contact Dante at chronicle.businessmanager@gmail.com or (219) 989-2547.



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Remedial courses right where they should be

The issue: Zero-level courses are no more after spring 2013
Our stance: Community college is the place for remedial courses

The state of Indiana has mandated that remedial courses no longer be offered in Indiana's state universities. See "State mandates reallocate remedial courses" by Andrea Drac on page 1. This means that zero-level courses currently offered at PUC must be taken at Ivy Tech Community College after spring 2013.

There is only one math course now at PUC in the remedial level, Beginning Algebra. However, there are plenty of zero-level English courses. These courses are mostly high school level, but some are at the elementary and middle school level. If someone is going to college, they should at least be able to do math and English at a middle school (and hopefully high school) level. At least these remedial courses are still being offered at community colleges and then able to be transferred to PUC.

It is understandable that not all people are "English people" or "math people," but it is essential to be able to do basic math functions and form some sort of coherent writing in day-to-day life. Sure, many students at PUC are non-traditional and may not have been in high school for many years. However, these people will just have to attend Ivy Tech at a cheaper tuition rate for a time to get to the level they need to be to take 100-level classes. This is not to say that all non-traditional students, or even the majority, need remedial classes. Nor is it to say that the only people who need remedial classes are non-traditional students.

This switch is really setting apart community colleges and state universities. The differences between Ivy Tech and PUC have always been evident, but now even more than ever no one can say that PUC is a community college. PUC follows mandates for state schools just like our parent university Purdue West Lafayette. Community college and commuter college are two very different things.

So, people should realize the difference. Perhaps many people should start off at Ivy Tech to get their beginning classes out of the way. Even those who do not need to take remedial courses may want to start out at Ivy Tech. Cheaper tuition sounds great while people figure out what they want to do with their lives. Be sure to pay attention to which classes will transfer and which classes will not, though. You don't want to get stuck wasting money on classes you can't use to finish your degree.

COMMENTS?

Write to us and see your thoughts in print!

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

The views expressed in submitted commentaries and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of The Chronicle or Purdue University Calumet. The Chronicle is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet. The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the writers name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification. The more concise the letter, the better chance of publication. All materials submitted to The Chronicle become the property of The Chronicle. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Deadline for submissions is the Friday before the publication.

Man, some teachers just don't understand

Morgan Walker
Photo Editor

Throughout the years I have attended classes here, I've seen a few professors that absolutely refused to give a student a break. Quite a few professors on campus have the policy of you can't get an excused absence or make up work/turn it in late unless there's a death in the family or you're extremely ill. This makes no sense to me because there are other things in life that you just sometimes have to miss class for. There have been times where I've had to miss class or leave early because of something that couldn't be scheduled any other day, or some other situation that wasn't a dire emergency but still forced me to miss class. I've heard stories from students telling me how teachers won't accept homework if you're late, or if you miss a day they won't tell you what you missed; you'll just have to get it from a classmate instead.

A little compassion goes a long way.

Of course, not all teachers are sticklers for things like that. There are teachers that don't care if you get to class a little late or leave early, because outside of class they realize you do have a life. A lot of students in this day and age are fighting with all their might to get through college without having to give up a kidney to pay off those loans when they finish. According to clasp.org, 47 percent of students are independent, 40 percent are low income, 43 percent work part-time and 32 percent work full-time. Sixty-three percent say that if they didn't work, they would be unable to attend college at all.

With that being said, there are some students that come to college and are not serious at all about their classes. As a teacher, you know which of your students try and which don't. So what I'm trying to say is that yes, current doctors, professors and so forth, I'm really glad you received your degree, so I can pay to hear all the wonderfully educational things I need to know to one day have a degree of my own. If a student gives you proof of what's going on outside of class, giving that student a chance can actually help. Some teachers say they are preparing us for the real world; honestly this is the real world. We have jobs, bills, children and other responsibilities.. You had the option to work or focus on school that many of the students now, traditional or not, don't have. A little compassion goes a long way.

Readers can contact Morgan at mawalker@purduecal.edu or (219) 989-2547.

Region

continued from page 1

Bosco Lee, a Dragon Bowl employee, said the restaurant's maki sushi rolls and fruit smoothies, which come with the optional add-on of tapioca pearls, are popular items. Dragon Bowl seems to be the most popular Asian restaurant with PUC University Village students.

"I liked that they use all white-meat chicken. There was no chewy stuff," freshman Megan P'pool said. P'pool added that Dragon Bowl offers large portions at a reasonable price with friendly service.

Dragon Bowl
8231 Hohman Ave., Munster
(219) 513-0088

Photo: Micaela Martinez

Fortune House on Calumet Avenue in Munster

Photo: Micaela Martinez

Fruit smoothie with tapioca pearls from Dragon Bowl on Hohman Avenue in Munster

Visclosky gives blood at PUC

Photo Provided

Creating more jobs and bettering the steel industry's health are two initiatives on the table for Northwest Indiana, according to Congressman Pete Visclosky. The congressman, who is up for re-election in November, participated in the American Red Cross Blood Drive on Sept. 26 in Alumni Hall.

Moon festival

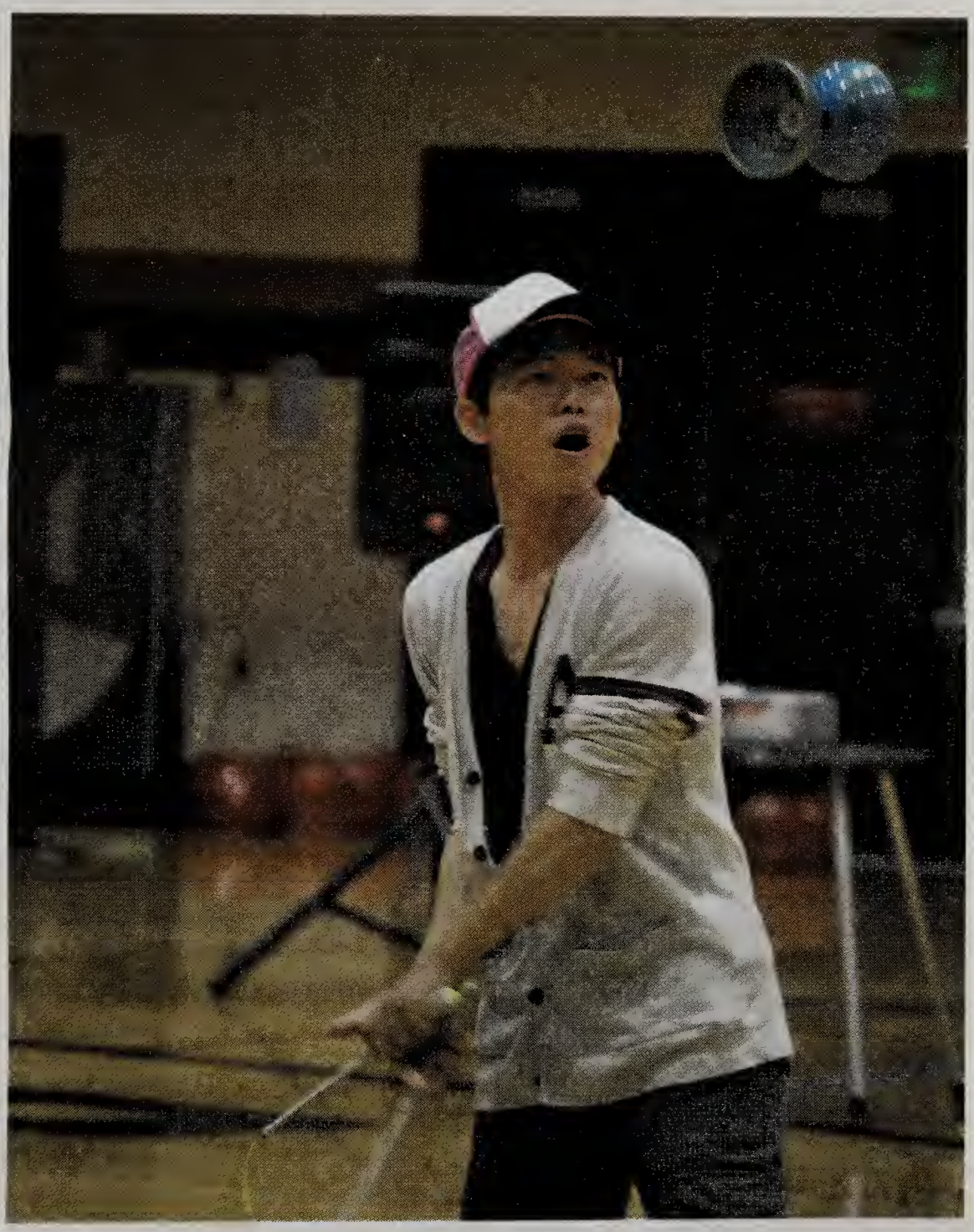

Photo: Morgan Walker

Assistant Professor of Communication and Creative Arts Szu-Wei Chen performs a diabolo show at the annual Chinese Student Association Moon Festival in the Fitness Center on Sept. 28.

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Watkins entrances PUC

Michelle Mullins
Entertainment Editor

Magic has always been a form of entertainment that can sink or swim when it comes to audience reactions. Either the magician gets a cooperative audience and successfully takes them on a journey through a world of illusions and mind-defying tricks, or the act simply falls flat and leaves the audience bored. Actor and professional award-winning magician Dennis Watkins proved that he is not just a magician but an entertainer that will keep the audience on their toes on Sept. 28 in Alumni Hall.

Lots of PUC students, children and members of the community packed into Alumni Hall to witness a true magician at work. Watkins immediately immerses his audience in the show by picking a few lucky people from the crowd to participate in a current trick and one that would be performed later. By automatically attaching the crowd to his tricks, he quickly builds a rapport with the audience. His comedic bits and friendly demeanor add to the warm stage presence he gives off. Since there were so many children in the crowd, he often played off of their antics, whether it was them trying to ruin his tricks or if they were being too disruptive. He did it in a manner that was funny, but did not belittle or scold them.

Eventually, Watkins moved to his more radical tricks, which kept the crowd exclaiming and giving applause all night. When Tory Shrum, a freshmen nursing major, was asked what her favorite trick was she replied, "I can't pick just one, but I liked the one with the girl's head!" This trick involved participation from the audience to work successfully. Watkins called an audience member to the stage, and it just happened to be a 7 year-old girl. As she approached the stage he told her to sit in a chair facing the audience and not to move an inch. He pulled out a hypnotizing wheel and started to spin it. "Stare directly into the middle of the middle," he proclaimed to the crowd, "do not avert your eyes. Keep focused in the middle even if it feels like you are being pulled into a tunnel." He counted down from five and told the audience to then look at the girl's head. The outcome caused most audience members to gasp and immediately break out into applause.

"I have never seen anything like this before," Patrice McBee, sophomore accounting major, said.

McBee's favorite trick performed was the mind-reading, or blindfold trick that Watkins performed. Again, Watkins pulled from the audience for this mind-blowing illusion. He called a man and woman to the stage and proceeded to have them help him set up the act. He placed two half-dollar coins on pieces of duct tape and placed them over both eyes. He then applied more duct tape around his eyes, a blindfold and another piece of duct tape on top of the blindfold. Still blindfolded he told the male helper to grab three personal items from people in the crowd. After receiving the items, he told the man to hand them to the woman, behind his back, and then told the woman to hold the object in front of his hand, not allowing him to ever touch the item. The three items were a cell phone, a compact and a wristband. Not only did he guess every single one, he described them as if he did not even have the blindfold on.

Simply amazing would be an understatement of Watkins's performance. Interactive showcasing would be a closer statement but still not right enough. As soon as he began to talk, Watkins threw his personality and skill out to the audience. He was able to energize the kids and have the adults believing in magic again.

On October 12th at 8 p.m., mentalist Christopher Carter will be attempting to read minds in Alumni Hall.

Photo: Morgan Walker

Tianna Harrison, daughter of PUC Writing Center Coordinator Janine Harrison, happily performs a ring trick with Dennis Watkins.

Office of Student Activities
www.purduecal.edu/studentactivities
Tunes @ Noon
with DAVID HARRIS
Thurs. Oct. 4
11am-2pm
Oaken Arbor Café, SUL
Sponsored by Student Activities
Purdue vs. Wisconsin
Saturday, October 13
7am-4:30pm; $25 PUC Students
Includes game ticket, $10 meal voucher, and motor coach transportation to/from W. Lafayette. Register by Oct. 3 in SUL-104B. Sorry, no credit cards.
Sponsored by Student Activities.
Purdue Football Game Trip
Student Activities
OPEN MIC NIGHT
Hosted by The Billies
MONDAY, OCT. 8
7pm-9pm
Calumet Falls, SUL
LeadOrgShape
Training for Life & for Organizations
Friday, October 5
9:30am-11:30pm
Promoting Your Organization Through Networking
Sylvia Planer, Personnel Specialist/Training Coordinator, U.S. Federal Government
Learn to successfully lead committees and groups from successful corporate leaders and through hands-on activities.
Certificates will be presented to students who attend 5 or more 2012-13 LeadOrgShape sessions
The LeadOrgShape Series is sponsored by Student Activities for PUC Students.
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
To register and for series topics, go to www.purduecal.edu/LeadOrgShape
Tunes @ Noon
with The Billies
Thurs. Oct. 8
11:30am-1pm
Oaken Arbor Café, SUL
Sponsored by Student Activities
Student Activities Presents
MENTALIST
Christopher Carter
Friday, Oct. 12
8pm @ Alumni Hall
3rd Floor, SUL
Mind Reader
Freak-out Artist

Anderson's not quite 'Master' piece

Jeff Scott
Entertainment Writer

Director Paul Thomas Anderson ("There Will Be Blood") examines what happens when the spiritually weak come under the spell of a charismatic religious cult leader in "The Master," an interesting but uneven melodrama.

Anderson focuses on one such spiritually-weak person in particular. Freddie Quell (Joaquin Phoenix, "Walk the Line") is a World War II U.S. Navy veteran who has been plagued for years with addictions to alcohol and casual sex. Freddie goes to extremes to get booze any time he wants it, even going so far as to distill alcohol from paint thinner. He also has a violent temper, often getting into fistfights for no apparent reason. Freddie stows away on a cruise ship, where cult leader Lancaster Dodd (Philip Seymour Hoffman, "Capote") is celebrating the wedding of his daughter. Lancaster befriends Freddie, and soon begins to convince him that Lancaster's religious group, "The Cause," can help Freddie overcome his demons.

Anderson, who also wrote the screenplay, makes the film generally compelling during its first half, but gradually begins to sputter, and runs out of ideas before it is over. The character of Lancaster is a writer who founded his religion on the basic belief that interrogating a person about his past traumas, reliving them, and talking about them will relieve his inner soul from torture. Lancaster also believes that failure to do so will result in making the same mistakes the next time he is reincarnated. Lancaster calls this process "auditing." The auditing process is presented in a fascinating way, with Lancaster taking Freddie under his wing to find out what is troubling him. Lancaster and Freddie have a difficult father-son type of relationship, complete with several falling-outs and reconciliations. Lancaster and Freddie are well-written characters, who are fully fleshed out people with complex lives and no easy answers.

Anderson tries to examine both sides of the religious issue. When Lancaster is confronted by a reporter who questions his authenticity, Lancaster tells him all the reasons that his suspicions are wrong. On the other hand, Lancaster's own son (Jesse Plemons, who actually resembles a younger Hoffman) expresses doubt about whether his father's auditing process actually does any good, and even wonders if his dad is just making up his religious beliefs as he goes along.

The problem with Anderson's script is that it seems to be building up to something that never actually happens. Some of the disagreements between Lancaster and Freddie are fairly muddled, and it is not obvious what they are fighting about. There is no payoff by the time the story has reached its end, and it is not clear what the characters, especially Freddie, are supposed have learned from everything they have gone through. The film could have benefitted from a stronger and more cohesive narrative.

Photo: aceshowbiz.com

Joaquin Phoenix (back) and Phillip Seymour Hoffman (front) give astounding performances in controversial film "The Master".

Anderson is a talented director, often making films about difficult topics, such as gambling addiction ("Hard Eight") and the adult film industry ("Boogie Nights"). In "The Master," he gets outstanding performances by the leads, has fine cinematography, and features an excellent score.

Hoffman is mesmerizing as Lancaster. He is effectively subtle in the quiet moments and riveting in the loud ones. He delivers charisma and charm as a church leader, but also shows the sleazy side, without letting his performance become overheated. His work is worthy of an Academy Award nomination.

Phoenix is at his best since "Walk the Line." Phoenix is willing to go out to any extreme edge that his character needs. When Lancaster and Freddie are held in a jail cell in one crucial scene, Freddie snaps, and Phoenix is scary and unnerving. Yelling, screaming, crying and snarling like a caged dog, Phoenix lets out the inner turmoil Freddie is feeling and hits all the right notes. Phoenix's acting is a reminder of how regrettable it is that the headlines about his personal life sometimes overshadow his abilities.

Cinematographer Mihai Malaimare Jr. creates a stunning atmosphere, beautifully shooting the scenes that always evoke the right mood. The score by Jonny Greenwood is slow, stark and sad, always right on target.

Despite the incredible amount of talent in front of and behind the camera, "The Master" does not quite come together in the way that it should. Anderson steps up to the plate whenever he makes a film, and his failures are more interesting than some other directors' successes. But, without a truly coherent story at the film's heart, Anderson goes down swinging.

★★½

A bond between brothers

Lauren Van
Staff Writer

Filled with comedy, action and suspense, "End of Watch" is the movie of the season. It is a phenomenal portrayal of a relationship between two best friends that become brothers. These brothers are not related by blood, but by the badge they wear and the standards they live by. Jake Gyllenhaal ("Donnie Darko") and Michael Pena ("Crash") star as two partnered California police officers patrolling the streets of Los Angeles. They are marked for death by the dangerous and notorious Mexican drug cartel after discovering drugs, money and guns in a gang member's lair. After word gets out of their discovery, the two officers must fight for their lives both on and off the job.

Gyllenhaal plays police officer and former marine Brian Taylor. Pena plays police officer Michael Zavala, former high school stoner who is urged to become a cop by his high school sweetheart and wife, Gabby. The two officers meet in the police academy and become inseparable. The film reiterates Taylor's and Zavala's lives as cops. The audience witnesses guns fights, arrests, house fires, and missing person situations, many obstacles that the Los Angeles Police Department deals with on a daily basis. In the movie, Taylor states, "Most cops don't even have to pull out their guns." The fact that Taylor and Zavala load their guns about every five minutes makes the film that much more exciting.

"End of Watch" has its audience at the edge of their seats one minute and laughing hysterically the next. Taylor and Zavala are constantly going head to head with the gangs that run the streets of LA. In one scene, Zavala strips down to a T-shirt and pants, allowing himself to be vulnerable enough to fight a drunk who challenges and insults him. In another scene, Taylor and Zavala are patrolling the streets when Taylor begins to target Zavala's culture by making fun of Zavala's overly large family and his never ending invites to relatives' Quinceaneras. It is the perfect combination of themes that make a great movie: action, adventure, suspense, comedy and even a twist at the end. It is an emotional rollercoaster ride with gut-wrenching scenes and stressful events. The relationship and bond between Gyllenhaal and Pena make it seem like they have known each other their whole lives.

Some graphic scenes are particularly disturbing, but bring character and emotion to the film. There are many scenes involving strong violence and some disturbing images. There is also an abundance of pervasive language in conversations between Taylor and Zavala, the gangs of LA and the other cops. The entire movie is filmed through Taylor's camera for his college filmmaking class. He is constantly reprimanded for documenting crime scenes, but he persists in filming. The video camera point-of-view gives "End of Watch" an interesting spin. Some scenes are hard to follow, but the way the camera moves makes events seem more realistic. In the opening scene of the film, Taylor's camera is resting on the dashboard of the police car, making the audience feel as though they are in the passenger seat of a car chase as Taylor and Zavala swerve through the narrow streets of LA.

Photo: filmofilia.com

Officers Taylor (Jake Gyllenhaal) and Zavala (Michael Pena) get hits on them once they confiscate items from a infamous cartel.

The sound effects are loud and very realistic, and the gun shots will make the audiences' hearts pump. The background music is very immersive and creates a sense of being involved in the scenes of the movie. The best part of the movie is that it could happen in a real-life situation. It makes the movie a heart wrenching and emotional thrill ride.

"End of Watch" is a must-see film that is Oscar-worthy. Taylor is definitely one of Gyllenhaal's most impressive roles thus far in his acting career. There is a very good chance that both Gyllenhaal and Pena will receive awards for their excellent performances.

★★★★★

Rating System

★★★★★ ESSENTIAL
★★★★ EXCELLENT
★★★ AVERAGE
★★ POOR
★ AWFUL

Students let their football flag fly

Photo: Morgan Walker

Pete Fagan, quarterback for Dynasty, prepares to make a pass.

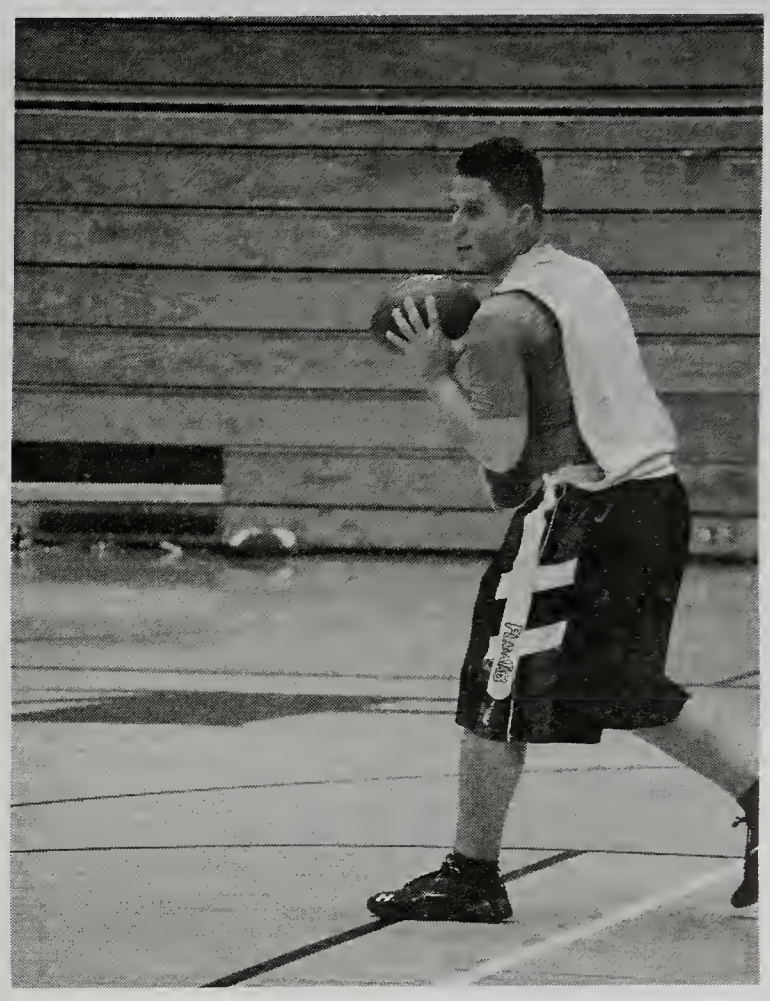

Photo: Morgan Walker

Extreme quarterback Sam Berrios seeks out receivers.

Photo: Morgan Walker

Jake Wright (right) of Dynasty makes a catch as Extreme's Andrew Smith (left) and Sam Berrios run him down.

XC

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crazy. I tend to agree with this," Bliss joked.

The team works extremely hard to push themselves every workout, as well as to encourage their fellow teammates. Communication is also a big key to the team's success.

Bliss's goal for his runners is to improve their times every race and improve on the team's standing at the conference meets.

"We are a newer program and headed in the right direction," he said.

He loves coaching and his favorite part is helping and preparing students for life after college.

He tries to offer any advice he can relate to about running, life and school.

"I love seeing my athletes do well in all aspects of their lives," Bliss said.

Bliss also enjoys the social aspect of cross country.

"Meeting new people that provide the same inspiration and receiving great advice from them is always a welcome experience," he said.

Photo: Morgan Walker

Berrios protects Smith (left) from Dynasty defender Amelia Medina (right).

From the coach's view: Matthew Bliss on sophomore season

Lauren Van
Staff Writer

Matthew Bliss has been PUC's men and women's cross country coach for two seasons. Before joining the PUC faculty, he was the assistant women's cross country coach while teaching at Griffith High School.

"I had been looking for a long time and once a position opened at the high school, I did what I could to get it," Bliss explained.

He enjoyed those years of coaching runners he calls "some of the greatest athletes in the area" and working with wonderful coaches as well.

PUC's cross country team has improved in both talent and size. An additional male and five new women have joined the team this year. PUC has also picked up more talent in the team through freshman Josh Keith and sophomore Phillip Espinosa.

Bliss reveals that many "newcomers are making direct and immediate contributions." Courtney Wagner and Abigail Trader have also greatly contributed to the cross country team statistics.

Many of his runners have already improved their high school personal records and continue to lower their times each week. Bliss describes them as hardworking and determined to work through obstacles such as sickness, injury and class conflicts that can occur.

The schedule has also improved to fit more races and competitions. This is the first year PUC runners have competed in the Indiana Intercollegiate race.

"We feel this will help make our team more competitive by having one more race than last season," Bliss says.

Core workouts and plyometrics have also been added to the training program to improve endurance, strength and stamina.

"Running is a sport where you lose it if you don't use it," Bliss says. "I expect all runners to come to every practice and give it their all while staying positive and motivated to not only improve their running, but their teammates'."

He also claims that all of his runners possess the same qualities that most runners must have.

"Many people say that to be a runner, you have to be a little

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Photo Provided
The men's and women's cross country teams added more members in their second season.

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